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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Shiela A. Loggins on 4/9/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1 line 7 "of" has been changed to – from –; in line 8 after “,” - wherein the second flocculant is distributed throughout the thickened suspension with mixing equipment, – has been inserted.

In claim 10 lines 1 and 2 “selected from the group consisting of i)” has been deleted.

Claim 18 has been canceled.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Peter A. Hruskoci/ whose telephone number is (571) 272-1160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Peter A. Hruskoci/  
Primary Examiner  
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4/12/10